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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
09/013,645	01/26/98	HENDERSON	T PBAER36769

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EXAMINER

LEE, R

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2613

DATE MAILED: 10/11/00

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/013,645

Applicant(s)
Henderson et al

Examiner
Richard Lee

Group Art Unit
2613



☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Sep 5, 2000

☐ This action is **FINAL**.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claims

☒ Claim(s) 1-3 and 8 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

☒ Claim(s) 1-3 and 8 is/are rejected.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been
☐ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

☐ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

--- SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES ---

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1. The request filed on September 5, 2000 for a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) under 37 CFR 1.53(d) based on parent Application No. 09/013,645 is acceptable and a CPA has been established. An action on the CPA follows.

2. The drawings are object to for the same reasons as set forth in paragraph (2) of the last Office Action (Paper no. 9). Though the applicants have indicated at pages 2-3 of the amendment filed July 20, 2000 that a copy of Figure 4 is attached with proposed red ink modifications, the proposed drawing copy is not in the file and is apparently lost. Please resubmit the proposed drawing copy for Examiner approval in response to this Office Action. The Examiner apologizes for any inconvenience that this may have caused for the applicants.

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1, 2, and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Henderson et al of record (5,440,337) in view of Baker et al of record (5,508,734).

Henderson et al discloses a multi-camera closed circuit television system for aircraft as shown in Figures 1, 3, and 4, and substantially the same closed circuit television system for an aircraft (see Figure 4 and column 5, lines 4-7) as claimed in claims 1, 2, and 8, comprising substantially the same at least one video camera (22, 24 of Figure 3) providing a field of view forward and downward from the aircraft's centerline (26, 28 of Figure 7 and see column 5, lines

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7-15), the at least one video camera comprising a plurality of video cameras (see 22, 24 of Figure 3)..

Henderson et al does not particularly disclose, though, the followings:

(a) a plurality of video display modules for selecting and displaying a selected video image; a video camera control module connected to the at least one video camera and the plurality of video display modules for receiving the digital video signal and providing a plurality of selected video images to the plurality of video display modules, respectively; and wherein the at least one video camera generates a digital video signal providing a plurality of video images and the at least one video camera comprises a video camera providing a plurality of fields of view from a single video frame as claimed in claims 1 and 2; and

(b) a plurality of personal control units, each of the plurality of personal control units corresponding to respective ones of the plurality of video display modules and connected to the video camera control module for operating the video camera control module to independently select a desired field of view for each of the video display modules as claimed in claim 1.

Regarding (a) and (b), Baker et al discloses a method and apparatus for hemispheric imaging which emphasizes peripheral content as shown in Figures 1, 6, and 8, and teaches the conventional video camera (10 of Figure 1 and see column 6, lines 27-31, lines 52-64, column 7, lines 16-18) for generating a digital video signal (see 60 of Figure 6, and column 12, lines 11-21) providing a plurality of video images and wherein the video camera provides a plurality of fields of view from a single video frame (see column 12, lines 6-8, column 13, lines 8-18); a plurality of

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video display modules (receive outputs from the RAMDACs 78 of Figure 8) for selecting and displaying a selected video image (see column 13, lines 8-31); a video camera control module (80 of Figure 8) connected to the at least one video camera and the plurality of video display modules for receiving the digital video signal and providing a plurality of selected video images to the plurality of video display modules, respectively; and a plurality of personal control units, each of the plurality of personal control units corresponding to respective ones of the plurality of video display modules (i.e., since image transformations such as pans, up/downs, zooms, tilts, rotations, etc. are being processed/controlled by either human or computer input operations within, for example, a video camera control module 80, such input operations provided via a personal control unit is being attached each of the video control modules 80, thus providing a plurality of personal control units corresponding to respective ones of the plurality of video display modules, see column 12, lines 28-41 and column 13, lines 8-31) and connected to the video camera control module for operating the video camera control module to independently select a desired field of view for each of the video display modules (i.e., users are provided the personal control units connected to the video camera control modules 80 having the capabilities of selecting a desired image within the image transformation system as shown in Figure 8, see column 12, lines 6-8, lines 28-41, column 13, lines 8-31). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the Henderson et al and Baker et al references in front of him/her and the general knowledge of closed circuit television systems, would have had no difficulty in providing the features of a digital camera system, a plurality of video display modules, a video camera

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control module, and a plurality of personal control units as taught by Baker et al for the closed circuit television system for an aircraft of Henderson et al for the same well known flight entertainment purposes of providing to passengers with the capability to individually select and/or control a desired field of view from an available multiple fields of view provided by a video camera as claimed.

Regarding the applicants' arguments at pages 3-4 of the amendment filed July 20, 2000 concerning claims 1 and 2, and in general that "... The Examiner did not indicate any portion of Baker et al as disclosing or teaching a plurality of personal control units, and gave no basis for concluding that Baker et al discloses or teaches a plurality of personal control units ... The Examiner referred to column 12, lines 6-8, which allows the user to construct abutting subimages in the (x,y) plane without danger of edge interference. It is respectfully submitted that this passage clearly appears to relate to the circumstance of a single user having a single personal control unit for assembling images, and teaches away from the circumstance of multiple users at multiple personal control units for controlling their own individual displays. The Examiner further referred to Baker et al at column 12, lines 28-41, which concerns image transformations, but does not teach, disclose or suggest a plurality of personal control units. The Examiner further referred to Baker et al at column 13, lines 8-31, which concerns production of multiple different outputs simultaneously from individual stored or currently converted images, and incorporation of several image processing subsystems within one overall system as shown in Fig. 8, which shows a single bus interface/control 76, and does not teach, disclose or suggest a plurality of personal control

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units ...", the Examiner wants to point out that such arguments have been addressed in the above rejection, but however will now hopefully clarify more on the basis for the above rejection. It is the Examiner's opinion again that since image transformations such as pans, up/downs, zooms, tilts, rotations, etc. are being processed/controlled by either human or computer input operations within, for example, a video camera control module 80 of Figure 8 of Baker et al as described at column 12, lines 28-41 and column 13, lines 8-31 of Baker et al, a personal control unit provided for the human or computer input is being attached to a video camera control module 80. Further, since there are a plurality of video camera control modules 80 as shown in Figure 8 of Baker et al, there are an equal amount of personal control units connected to each of the plurality of video control modules for controlling the image transformations via either human or computer input. It is therefore the Examiner's opinion again that Baker et al shows substantially the same if not the same plurality of personal control units, each of the plurality of control units corresponding to respective ones of the plurality of video display modules and connected to the video camera control module for operating the video camera control module to independently select a desired field of view for each of the video display modules as claimed.

Regarding the applicants' arguments at page 4 of the amendment filed July 20, 2000 concerning that the Examiner's conclusion is based solely upon hindsight reconstruction of the invention based upon the disclosure of the present application, the Examiner wants to point out that: "It should be too well settled now to require citation or discussion that the test for combining references is not what the individual references themselves suggest but rather what the combination of disclosures taken as a whole would suggest to one of ordinary skill in the art. Any

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judgement on obviousness is in a sense necessarily a reconstruction based upon hindsight reasoning, but so long as it takes into account only knowledge which was within the level of ordinary skill at the time the claimed invention was made and does not include knowledge gleaned only from applicant's disclosure, such a reconstruction is proper". In re McLanughlin, 170 USPQ 209-213.

Therefore, even though neither Henderson et al nor Baker et al taken singularly suggests the combination as claimed, the combination thereof taken as a whole would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art.

5. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Henderson et al and Baker et al as applied to claims 1, 2, and 8 in the above paragraph (4), and further in view of In re Aller for the same reasons as set forth in paragraph (7) of the last Office Action (see Paper no. 9).

6. **Any response to this action should be mailed to:**

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 308-9051, (for formal communications intended for entry)

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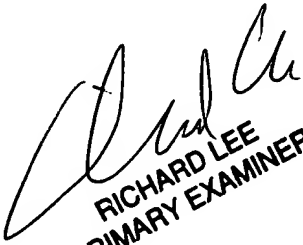
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(703) 308-5359 (for informal or draft communications, please label
"PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive,
Arlington. VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Richard Lee whose telephone number is (703) 308-6612.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-9600.


RICHARD LEE
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Richard Lee/rl

9/29/00

